

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, June 23, 2006*

## AS SUMMER CURFEW HOURS KICK IN, THE MPDC PLANS TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT

July 1 marks the beginning of the summer curfew season in DC. It also means that the MPDC will be stepping up enforcement of the District's curfew law, as a strategy to help combat juvenile involvement in crime – as both offenders and victims. The District has a teen curfew law in effect all year, but during the summer months the curfew starts an hour later on weeknights. So beginning July 1, and continuing through August 31, DC's curfew for young people under the age of 17 runs from 12:01 am to 6 am, seven days a week. During the other 10 months of the year, the curfew begins at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends. Under DC law, persons under age 16 and younger cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. Exempted activities include work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. DC's curfew law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. In addition to reminding young people and their families about the summer curfew hours, the MPDC is also warning them that, with a recent spike in juvenile crime, the agency is increasing enforcement of the curfew. So far this year, the MPDC has processed approximately 1,384 curfew violators, a 9.9% percent increase from 2005. Chief Ramsey said the renewed enforcement on curfew enforcement is part of the MPDC's overall strategy to deal with a recent spike in violent crime committed by juveniles. Arrests of juveniles for robbery have risen 85 percent so this year, after rising 37 percent in 2005. The number of juveniles arrested for weapons offenses are also up sharply.

- ① For complete details on DC's curfew law, including sample exemptions and alternative resources for young people, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/40days>

- ① To provide young people with safe and fun activities throughout the summer, the MPDC is once again sponsoring "40 Days of Increased Peace." Learn more by calling the hotline – (202) "I'm-Bored" (462-6733), or by visiting:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,557371.asp>

## MPDC LAUNCHES NEXT PHASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON PHOTO ENFORCEMENT

To coincide with the five-year anniversary of its highly successful photo radar speeding reduction program, the MPDC this summer is conducting the next phase of its campaign to educate the public about the dangers of aggressive driving and the Department's use of automated traffic enforcement technology to combat the problem. The Department's latest "Eye on Safety" campaign includes radio ads that began airing on several DC-area radio stations, including one Spanish-language station. The radio ads will run periodically during June, July and August. They are complemented by Metrobus advertising and other print materials. The message in all of the advertising is straightforward: if you don't want a ticket, don't break the law by speeding aggressively or running red lights. The latest phase of the photo enforcement public information and education campaign is designed to complement other traffic safety initiatives (such as Smooth Operator) that are under way in the DC region this summer. The campaign also coincides with the five-year anniversary of DC's photo radar program and the seven-year anniversary of the red-light intersection safety camera program.

- ① Both automated enforcement programs have contributed to dramatic reductions in aggressive driving in locations where the cameras are situations Details on DC's photo enforcement program are at:

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,560157,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,560157,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1.asp)

## DISTRICT OPENS POOLS, OFFERS MORE WAYS TO BEAT SUMMER BOREDOM

The District opened its 33 swimming pools on Monday, June 19, just in time for the first big heat wave of the summer. With 19 large outdoor pools, six indoor pools, and even six walk-to-learn pools for young children, the summer heat is no excuse for not joining in the fun. But remember to exercise caution when cooling off. Parents should ensure that young children are equipped with the proper flotation devices and basic understanding of water safety. All children should be supervised when swimming. Adults should avoid drinking alcohol before a visit to the pool. Most pools will be open to the public seven days a week.

On Wednesday, the Department of Parks and Recreation along with the Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation, Department of Human Services, Department of Employment Services, DC Public Schools, DC Public Library, Answers Please! and the State Office of Education kicked off their DC Summer Fun 2006 at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, 1100 Michigan Ave., NE.

## ASIAN LIAISON UNIT CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Department's Asian Liaison Unit (ALU) celebrated its 10th anniversary on Thursday with an open house that included guest speakers, a presentation of awards to key partners and residents of the community, and information on the unit's programs and accomplishments. Outstanding Citizen Awards were presented to 25 individuals and organizations that have been key to the Unit's success and impact on the changing Chinatown neighborhood, including Mr. Wally Lee of the Lee Family Association, Mr. Tony Cheng of the Chinatown Community Cultural Center, Mr. James Wang of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Mr. Abe Pollin of Washington Sports and Entertainment, Mr. Hiram K. Brewton of the Downtown DC Business Improvement District, and Ms. Reba Pittman Walker of the Washington Convention Center.

The Unit began as the Multicultural Liaison Unit on July 1, 1993, and was officially designated the Asian Liaison Unit in March 1996. By January 1998, the unit had succeeded in drastically reducing the crime rate in Chinatown through its community-building efforts and a no-nonsense approach to crime fighting. The unit focused on reducing prostitution, extortion and kidnapping, and illegal gambling operations. The unit continues to grow and serve the Asian community. While currently comprised of just eight members (one sergeant, one detective, five officers, and one community liaison specialist), there are plans to expand the unit to serve the demands of the diverse population of residents and visitors to Washington, DC.

## NEWS & NOTES

Sergeant Brett Parson Honored for Substance Abuse Work. The Caron Community Addiction Treatment program has chosen Sergeant Brett Parson as the recipient of its Law Enforcement Award for 2006. Sergeant Parson was recognized at the Washington Metropolitan Area Community Service Awards Breakfast on Friday, June 16. The awards recognize those individuals who have excelled in their field of work to help those suffering from the disease of addiction. These individuals have also made a difference in the areas of education, awareness and/or treatment. Sergeant Parson is joined by 13 other individuals and programs from the Washington area for their efforts in combating addiction. For more information on the Caron Awards or their work, please visit [www.caron.org](http://www.caron.org).

**Street Closures for Caribbean Festival.** The DC Caribbean Parade and Festival takes place this Saturday and Sunday along upper Georgia Avenue, NW. A parade will be held on both days beginning at 10 am, at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Missouri Avenue, NE. For closure information, see <http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?mpdcNav=|31417|>.

① For the hours of operation at all of the District's 33 swimming facilities, see:  
[http://app.dpr.dc.gov/DPR/information/swimming\\_pools/index.asp](http://app.dpr.dc.gov/DPR/information/swimming_pools/index.asp)

① Get more information about the DC Summer Fun programs of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Details at:  
<http://app.dpr.dc.gov/DPR/news/release.asp?id=155&mon=2006>

① During declared heat emergencies, public swimming pools — both indoor and outdoor — remain open until 9 pm. To learn more, see:  
<http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view,a,1226,q,630353.asp>

① To learn more about the unit and its services, visit:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547480,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp>Asian Liaison Unit](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547480,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp>Asian Liaison Unit)

① One of the ALU's responsibilities is to investigate reported hate crimes against members of DC's Asian communities. For more information about hate crimes in DC, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547599,mpdcNav\\_GID,1553.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547599,mpdcNav_GID,1553.asp)

## DATA BOX

### Homicides as of 6/23/06

- ◆ 2006: 77
- ◆ 2005: 81
- ◆ % Change: -4.9%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 48.1% (37 closures)

### Adult Arrests week end. 6/17/06

- ◆ Total: 872
- ◆ Weapons: 16
- ◆ Robbery: 9
- ◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 11
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34
- ◆ Narcotics: 162

### Juvenile Activity week end. 6/17/06

- ◆ Total Arrests: 83
- ◆ Robbery: 3
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 198
- ◆ Truants: 0

### Firearm Recoveries as of 6/21/06

- ◆ June: 122
- ◆ 2006 Total: 1,117

### Traffic Fatalities as of 6/23/06

- ◆ 2006: 23
- ◆ 2005: 20
- ◆ % Change: +15.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**